

District 45

Fall District Council Meeting



Online via Zoom

September 18, 2021

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AGENDA – DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING



District 45 District Council Meeting
10:00 am ET/11:00 am AT – September 18, 2021
Online Meeting

Call to Order	Heather Perkins, DTM District Director
Inspirational Opening	Sarah Wright Area 15 Director
Reading of District Mission Statement	Patricia Saucier Area 5 Director
Welcome & Opening Remarks	Heather Perkins, DTM District Director
Credentials Committee Report	Michael Thompson, DTM
Approve minutes from May 15, 2021	Albert Cormier Administration Manager
Confirmation of Appointed Officers	Heather Perkins, DTM District Director
Audit Committee Report	Cornelia Buhmann, DTM Audit Committee Chair
Division Director Reports	6 Divisions - 2 minutes each
Senior District Leader Reports	2 minutes each
District Success Plan	Heather Perkins, DTM District Director
Proposed Budget 2021-2022	Ken Hubley District Finance Manager
Unfinished Business	
New Business	
Announcements	
Time & Place of Next DC Meeting	TBD Online Meeting
Adjournment	

MINUTES – MAY 15, 2021 DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING

Call to Order	District Director Jonathan Bohm, DTM, called the meeting to order at 12:31 pm ET
Inspirational Opening	Rhea Hamlin, CC, ALB, DL2, PL1, Area 9 Director, delivered the inspirational opening.
Reading of District Mission Statement	Cindy Sarvai, CC, CL, MS4, Area 20 Director, delivered the District Mission statement.
Welcome and Opening remarks	District Director Jonathan Bohm, DTM, provided welcome and introductory remarks.
Credentials Committee Report	Casey Jenkins, DTM, presented the Credentials report stating that, with 120 voters present, a quorum had been reached.
Approval of Minutes	District Director Jonathan Bohm, DTM, presented the minutes from the previous District Conference that was held on September 28, 2020. Minutes were approved as posted.
Confirmation of Appointed Officers	<p>District Director Jonathan Bohm, DTM, presented the list of appointed officers:</p> <p>Public Relations Manager: Crystal Cobb, CC, CL, PI5 Administration Manager: Gregory Lavoie, DL1</p> <p>Moved by Finance Manager Heather Perkins, DTM, PDG, PRA, to accept the appointed officers list as presented. Seconded by Linda Rummenie, DTM Motion carried, appointments confirmed.</p>
Realignment Report	<p>Olivette Aviso, DTM, PDG, presented the Alignment Report, which was completed by the District Alignment Committee and included in the DC packet. It was noted that in Division E, Bagtown Babblers had voluntarily disbanded, bringing the number of clubs in Area 3 below the minimum number of four. Given this, the Committee recommended that club Spotlight Toastmasters be moved from Area 17 to Area 3.</p> <p>District Director Jonathan Bohm, DTM, entertained a motion to adopt the realignment report as read.</p> <p>Moved by Debi Maxted, ACS, ALB Seconded by Edie Murray, IP2 Motion carried</p>

District Leader Committee Report	Included in the DC packet, Jim Kokocki, DTM, PIP, shared highlights of the District Leader Committee Report
Election of 2021-2022 District Officers	<p>There were two candidates for Program Quality Director: Crystal Cobb, CC, CL, PI5, and Melinda McCormack, DTM.</p> <p>After speeches were given by both candidates, a vote was taken. Crystal Cobb, CC, CL, PI5, was declared the winner of the election.</p> <p>There were two candidates for Club Growth Director: Bill Bruns, DTM, and Sherry McDonald, DTM</p> <p>After speeches were given by both candidates, a vote was taken. Sherry McDonald, DTM, was declared the winner of the election.</p> <p>Following elections, the new slate of officers for the 2021-2022 year is as follows:</p> <p>District Director: Heather Perkins, DTM, PDG, PRA Program Quality Director: Crystal Cobb, CC, CL, PI5 Club Growth Director: Sherry McDonald, DTM Public Relations Manager: Anne Doucette, ACB, ALB, IP5, LD5, MS2 Division B Director: Tom Macisso, MS5 Division G Director: Tom Goodwin, DTM, PDG</p>
Mid-Year Audit Report	<p>Included in the DC packet, Michael Thompson, DTM, Audit Committee Member, shared highlights of the Audit Committee Report.</p> <p>District Director Jonathan Bohm, DTM, entertained a motion to adopt the mid-year audit report.</p> <p>Moved by Jeffrey Doucet, IP4 Seconded by Patricia MacNevin, DTM Motion carried.</p>
Finance Manager Report	The Finance Manager's Report, which covered the period ended March 30, 2021, was included as part of the published DC packet. Highlights were delivered by Finance Manager Heather Perkins, DTM, PRA. The report was placed on file.
Reports by Senior District Officers	The District Director, Club Growth Director, and Public Relations Manager each presented a 2-minute report. As the Program Quality Director role was vacant, the District Director also presented a 2-minute report on Program Quality.

Division Director Reports	Each of the six Division Directors listed below presented a 2-minute report: Jeremy DeMerchant, Division C Director Cindy Lee, Division G Director Alan Idler, Division D Director Anne Doucette, Division E Director Heather Fairchild, Division A Director Bill Bruns, Division B Director
Unfinished Business	There was no unfinished business
New Business	The following candidates for International Director Region 9 gave speeches ahead of the upcoming vote in August 2021: Ronald Servant, DTM Jeff Sobel, DTM
Announcements	International Speech Contest begins at 2:45 pm ET
Time and Place of Next DC Meeting	September 2021 (Date TBD), to be conducted online
Adjournment	Moved by Sheila Oranch, PM2 Seconded by Heather Fairchild, DTM Meeting adjourned at 2:27pm ET.
Minutes Recorded	Minutes recorded by: Administration Manager Gregory Lavoie, DL1

DISTRICT 45 APPOINTED OFFICERS 2021-22

District Administration Manager	Albert Cormier, MS5, EH5, PM1
District Finance Manager	Ken Hubley, IP3
Division A Director	Kelley Demers, DTM
Division C Director	Jim Kokocki, DTM, PIP
Division D Director	Suzanne Weiss, ACB, CL, LD1
Division E Director	Madhu Kanji, DTM
Area 1 Director	Alan Idler, DTM
Area 2 Director	Antoine Legresley, IP2
Area 3 Director	Lorelei Grecian, CC, CL, IP2
Area 4 Director	Kathi Zwicker, PM5, DL1
Area 5 Director	Patricia Saucier, CC, CL, MS5
Area 6 Director	Bill Bruns, DTM
Area 7 Director	Roxanne Benzel, MS1
Area 8 Director	Susanne Melling, DTM
Area 9 Director	Diane Tremblay, ACS, ALB, TC3
Area 10 Director	Sam Boduch
Area 11 Director	Andrea Jeffs, IP4, DL1
Area 12 Director	Deb Kumpf MS3, EH3, PM1
Area 13 Director	Subbi Mathur, DTM, PRA
Area 14 Director	Dawna-Jean (DJ) Turchon, DTM
Area 15 Director	Sarah Wright, PM5, SR1
Area 16 Director	Marcia Rogowsky, CC, ABL, CV4
Area 17 Director	Jennifer Bryson, LD5, DL5
Area 18 Director	Michael Lawlor, ACS, ALB, TC3
Area 19 Director	Manju Basnet, MS4, PM4
Area 20 Director	Cindy Sarvai, CC, CL, MS5
Area 21 Director	Marion Taylor, DTM
Area 24 Director	Andrew Chadbourne, ACS, CL, MS3
Area 25 Director	Brian Richards, DTM

2021 – 2022 DISTRICT 45 BUDGET SUMMARY

Category	2021 – 2022 budget	% of maximum allowed	2020– 2021 budget	2020 – 2021 actual
Revenue				
Membership Dues	29,090		32,803	29,091.11
Conference Revenue	24,800		4,750	
Education and Training Revenue			3,290	3,268.28
Total Revenue	53,890		40,843	32,359.39
TI Allocation	1,458			
Expenses				
Conference Expenses	24,800	Meets policy	4,750	0
Education and Training	4,500	15.5/ 15.0	5,840	3,392.37
Marketing Outside Toastmasters	3,450	11.9/ 10.0	3,280	4,484.47
Club Growth	9,750	33.5/ 15.0	5,840	6,115.26
Public Relations	2,850	9.8/ 10.0	4,065	2,875.08
Recognition	5,560	19.1/ 20.0	6,465	11,210.29
Travel	3,000	10.3/ 25.0	1,300	146.09
Lodging	2,640	9.1/ 15.0	2,400	129.34
Food and Meals	100	0.3/ 15.0	270	0
Speech Contest	500	1.7/ 5.0	1,071	1,189.91
Administration	1,949	6.7/ 10.0	3,271	2,444.08
Total Expenses	59,099		35,735	31,986.89
Net income/(loss)	(5,209)		5,108	372.50

1. TI Allocation was included in the Administration Expense last year.
2. Toastmasters International is allowing districts to budget a financial loss for the 2021-2022 program year of no more than 20% of the budgeted revenue.
3. We are budgeting for an in-person conference, however, based on Covid-19 restrictions a final decision for delivery of the conference and the speech contests will be made by December 15, 2021.
4. In 2020-2021 we budgeted for an on-line conference, which is why it has a much lower number budgeted than this year's budget number.
5. Club Growth had been increased due to an increase recognition and incentive program to help the District build clubs and increase membership.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

District 45 End-of-Year Audit

The Audit Committee met on August 21, 2021 via Zoom. The following members were present:

- Cornelia Buhrmann: Audit Committee Chair
- Ken Hubley: Audit Committee Member
- Michael Thompson: Audit Committee Member
- Heather Perkins: District 45 Finance Manager

The Audit Committee reviewed the receipts and payments for the period January to June 2021 on the Concur system. The Committee confirmed that there were supporting documents for all transactions and that all transactions were reasonable and accurate. The Audit Committee also performed a policy review by confirming that all transactions were approved by the appropriate district leaders. The Finance Manager shared the financial reports for the period January to June 2021 and the Audit Committee was satisfied with the reports.

Cornelia Buhrmann
District 45 Audit Committee Chair

REPORTS FROM DISTRICT OFFICERS

District Director – Heather Perkins, DTM, PDG, PRA

When you dream alone, it remains just a dream; when you dream together it is the beginning of a new reality. – Brazilian Proverb

When I spoke to you in May, I offered this Brazilian proverb and asked all of you to share in creating a new reality for District 45. That new reality is one where the District provides the opportunity for every member and every club to achieve success. District 45 is off to a great start in creating that reality of success.

Your Senior Leadership Team has been working hard to set a solid foundation for success. We have trained 100% of the Area and Division Directors. Your Program Quality Director Crystal, your Club Growth Director Sherry and I all attended over 2 days of training given by World Headquarters. We interviewed 22 candidates to help us make the best choice for our future International Directors and Officers. We have been meeting weekly to develop plans and programs for this new reality of success.

We have developed the [District Success Plan](#) and the District budget to be approved at our District Council Meeting. We have established and published incentives for achievement. We have initiated monthly peer calls with Presidents, VPEs, VPMs and VPPRs. Plans are well underway for the Fall Workshop, Sunday evening webinars and January TLIs. We are exploring new ways to promote Toastmasters to help clubs recruit new members and to help generate new club possibilities. We continue to advance Pathways, striving for at least 97% of our members enrolled and motivating all members to achieve Level completions.

Club executive teams have developed Club Success Plans, Area and Division Directors are holding Council meetings, and your District leader team is working together for your success. Teamwork is alive and well in District 45 as teams are being created through the peer calls and increased outreach. Engagement is flourishing in District 45. We have more members volunteering to serve on committees this year (more are always welcome). More members are actively working the program. Your Area Directors are working with clubs to provide feedback for continuous improvement and the District team will continually evaluate our programs. We are evaluators in District 45. We are building the new reality.

Through teamwork, engagement and effective evaluation, collectively we are creating the opportunities for ***every member and every club to achieve success.***

Program Quality Director – Crystal Cobb, CC, CL, EC5, PI5, DL4

Wow! We have started off this Toastmaster year with a bang! Our Area and Division Directors attended District training in June and July to be prepared to support and encourage our club members right away. We will be hosting more training for them in the new year!

As we continue to navigate the pandemic and ensure we are all keeping safe, most of our clubs are continuing to meet online, but with hopes to return to in-person meetings soon. With this comes the option of hosting hybrid meetings – some people in person while others join the meeting virtually. To help support clubs shifting to this option if they so choose, we have formed a hybrid meeting committee to gather best practices and share important information. This committee is working behind the scenes to ensure we can support you and your club as you venture into new territory and still provide quality meetings for members and guests. Watch for more details coming soon!

Plans are well underway for our annual Fall Workshop which will be held online on Saturday, November 6, 2021. Presenters have been selected and our keynote speaker has also been confirmed. This is an event you don't want to miss – training, networking, celebrating and lots of fun!

Our Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) sessions will be held early in the new calendar year. We highly encourage all club officers to attend so they can be prepared to serve members for the remainder of the year, but also to receive credit for attending. If you have certain topics you would like covered at the winter TLI sessions, please let us know!

Our webinar series “Striving for Success” has started this month and will be hosted monthly with a different topic each month. Striving for Success sessions will typically be held on the last Sunday of the month starting at 7pm ET / 8pm AT. Check our website, newsletter, and social media for upcoming session details!

As we continue through the year, our focus is on the Pathways program and encouraging our members to embrace the program and achieve success. We have various incentives for achieving Pathways levels and we want to keep our spot as number three in the world for Pathways adoptions – and even move into the number one spot for this year! We have started a Pathways Committee who plans to provide education and training on how to navigate the program, provide ideas for projects and support you as you work your path! Watch for more details coming soon!

Together, we can encourage, assist, and celebrate the success of one another. I am looking forward to working closely with you to provide members with quality education and programming. If you want to help or have ideas to share, please reach out to me at d45.crystalcobb@gmail.com. I am excited for what the future holds for D45 and its members!

Club Growth Director – Sherry MacDonald, DTM

District 45 has seen a decline in both membership and clubs over the past few years. This focus for this year's Club Growth team is on rebuilding membership within clubs as well as creating new clubs where the opportunities arise. Over the summer, four committees were formed and chairs were appointed.

- Club Coach is chaired by Angela Chute, DTM:
 - Angela has planned a monthly #TeamDistinguished MasterClass to provide Coaches with tools as well as support throughout the year.
 - Processes to sign up as a coach or to request a coach are being developed.
 - Two club coaches have been paired with clubs.
 - Three others have requested clubs and should be paired shortly.

- New Club Quality is chaired by Elise Thorsen, IP4:
 - Elise is defining the roles and responsibilities for both club Mentors and Sponsors.
 - Communicating clearer responsibilities will provide guidance for the sponsors and mentors as well as greater visibility to the new clubs.
 - Processes to sign up as a sponsor or mentor are being developed.

- New Club Recruitment is chaired by Susanne Melling, DTM:
 - Susanne is working with her team to create guidelines to help leaders and members across the district identify possible opportunities for corporate clubs.
 - Guidance for demo meetings will also be provided.

- Marketing is chaired by Rhea Hamlin, CC, ALB, DL2, PL1:
 - Rhea is exploring ways to market Toastmasters throughout our district.

The Club Growth Director holds monthly meetings with the club's VP Membership. These meetings are set up for the 3rd Thursday of each month. The topic for our first meeting was Guest Packages, beginning with a presentation by Tracy Gatis followed by a discussion on the topic. Those present provided suggestions for future topics such as: How to Invite a Guest, Emotionally Fit Toastmasters Club and New Member Orientation. Stay tuned for future session topics.

The Club Growth team is working hard to put together a foundation that will help support and grow membership within existing clubs as well as future clubs in years to come.

Public Relations Manager – Anne Doucette, ALB, ACB, MS5, IP5, LD5

Effective communication is an essential element for success in District 45; it contributes to engaging, educating and encouraging positive relationships with the members. This year, I want to implement a better and more efficient way to communicate with all district members. We can achieve this using the many different ways to communicate with members. The following includes updates on what we have done these past couple of months:

Newsletter

The newsletter is a great way to engage with members and keep them informed about District and member activities. It is also used to communicate the clubs'/members' successes and announcements. The newsletter can be found on the District website, is shared via email and snippets of articles will be posted on Facebook. We are always looking for articles from members to include in the newsletter.

Social Media Platforms

- LinkedIn - The District is looking at creating a LinkedIn account. I'm still looking for LinkedIn Aficionado(s) to help start and post on LinkedIn.
- Facebook District 45 Page – Facebook Chair, Sarah Greening, and I are working on a robust Facebook posting schedule to share information with members and increase member engagement. Members are welcomed to submit posts as well.
- Facebook District 45 Group - the group previously called 'Membership Growth' has been renamed 'Making your Club Successful' and will focus on all aspects of what helps to make a club successful, not just on membership growth. Members are welcomed to submit posts as well.
- YouTube – Although it hasn't been active recently, we do have a YouTube channel. This channel offers an interactive way to communicate. Stay tuned for more information on the posting of videos to this channel.

Monthly Vice President Public Relations Peer Calls

I have organized monthly VPPR peer calls to provide information to VPPR on protecting the Toastmasters International brand and to help them develop a good communication plan for their clubs. There will also be training/discussions on various items such as the brand manual, social media, Canva, etc. This monthly call is also a great opportunity to network and get ideas from other VPPRs.

Website

I have started making changes to the website, mainly on the front page where there are weekly blog posts as well as timely announcements. There is also a place for members to leave comments after each blog or announcement. Members can find District, Division and Area meetings on the District calendar. I've started adding information on the Fall Workshop; additional information will be added as it becomes available. Many other updates will be made throughout the year, keep checking back for updates.

As your Public Relations Manager, I am committed to implementing communications strategies that increase awareness of the district, builds trust, and includes information members want to know about and be able to find.

Immediate Past District Director – Jonathan Bohm, DTM

Our 2020 Conference advanced us in the virtual realm. Using new technology, we vitalized the event to build a stronger, more personalized experience. The 2020-2021 year ended on a high note with the Pineapple Social, directed by outgoing Public Relations Manager, Crystal Cobb.

District 45 was recognized at the 2021 Convention for our achievement in Pathways enrollment. We were third in the world with an adoption rate of 89.7%.

Thanks to the eager and motivated incoming Senior Leadership Team, we transitioned to the new year with respectful cooperation, ensuring that the members of District 45 continue to be served with integrity. In June, we offered four sessions of TLLs, prepared by the outgoing and incoming District Directors as well as the newly elected Program Quality Director.

As we move into the new year, District Director Heather Perkins, DTM, PRA, has assigned me two important roles. First, I will be preparing the Alignment Report, with recommendations for the 2022-2023 year. By now we are settling into the new normal of the pandemic, and as we continue to adapt, we may see ongoing adjustments in club membership. This will impact the alignment of Areas and Divisions.

Second, I will be leading the review and revisions of the District Procedures. Over the years, items in these Procedures have been added and amended. It is time to reorder some of the sections, striving for greater clarity. At the same time, certain items may need to be adjusted to meet the current situations and constraints and ensure the best opportunities for success.

As we move on, I am convinced that District 45 members will be well positioned for success under the current energetic leadership.

REPORTS FROM DIVISION AND AREA GOVERNORS

Division A Director - Kelley Demers, DTM

We have all learned that COVID-19 will not keep District 45 nor Division A Toastmasters down. Division A has four Area Directors who have hit the “ground running” and have started their unofficial and official club visits. Currently, there are 19 clubs in Division A of which 15 clubs have nine or more members with the remaining four clubs eligible for club coaches. Officers from 17 clubs attended the Summer TLI sessions offered by the District.

The four Area Directors are busy working with their clubs to ensure each club has what they need to be successful. Some of our clubs have begun the transition from virtual to hybrid meetings. These clubs can be the key to the Division and District 45 success in moving more clubs to the hybrid meeting environment. Division A will be increasing our social media presence by posting fun tidbits on the Division A Facebook page including a ‘Word of the Week’ challenge.

This year will no doubt be another challenging one; however, I am confident it will be an extremely positive and successful year for all!

Area 10 Director - Sam Boduch

District 45, Division A, Area 10 is off to a rocking start to the new Toastmasters year. Our Exeter Speak-Ups Club had a successful in-person open house at the Farm at Eastman’s Corner in July, and our Tri-City Toastmasters, Portsmouth Toastmasters, and Portsmouth Ad-Libs clubs are on their way to making this year the best yet. Excitement abounds. Onward and upward, we go!

Area 12 Director - Deb Kumpf, MS3, EH3, PM1

Area 12 consists of six open, community clubs in Concord, NH which meet at various times on different days. One club has recently transitioned from a corporate club to a community club. All the clubs are dealing with membership struggles to varying degrees; one is at low membership and could definitely use a club coach. Two others are close to the eight-member minimum. One of the clubs is just transitioning to a hybrid meeting; the others are still virtual-only. Half the clubs will need to find new locations when they can start meeting in-person or in a hybrid format.

Despite the low membership, two clubs were Select Distinguished last year (Congratulations!) and should continue to have members achieve educational awards. We hope to work together to promote Toastmasters in the Concord area to build membership for all the clubs.

Area 16 Director - Marcia Rogowsky, CC, ABL, VC4

Area 16 consists of four clubs all based in Manchester, NH; all four are community clubs. Two have weathered the switch to online well and continue to maintain their membership levels. The other two clubs are at or near the minimum member requirement. All clubs continue to meet online pending permission from their host sites' permission to resume in-person gatherings. Each club has a strong core of Toastmasters dedicated to club sustainment. When in-person gatherings are permitted, the struggling clubs should rebound. In the meantime, I will be encouraging members from my clubs to attend other club meetings in the area.

Area 20 Director - Cindy Sarvai, CC, CL, MS5

Area 20 consists of five clubs. All five clubs are community clubs, at least two of which are dealing with membership struggles to varying degrees and could use club coaches to assist in retrieving more membership. One of these clubs is at minimum membership status with eight members to date, while the other has 11 members. At this time, membership renewals have just begun, and it's too premature to gauge if all we renew. The loss of membership is perceived to be due to the online presence of the meetings versus in-person participation which has been ongoing since the spring of 2020. Three clubs within area 20 are in healthy standing and could achieve Distinguished Club status this TM year. Through monthly Area 20 Officer Meetings, I'm hoping to bridge the communications between District and Clubs by sharing ideas, bringing concerns to the District and assisting where needed. Unofficial visits have been conducted, and official meetings have been scheduled for all five clubs for their fall visits.

Division B Director - Tom Macisso, MS5

Last year brought substantial challenges to our division. I'm proud to say that our division is off to a good start for several reasons. First, we have leaders who have excelled at innovation and the ability to change due to these unique times. These talented leaders have shared their knowledge, technical expertise and "tricks of the trades" to provide valuable insight on best practices for conducting successful hybrid meetings. In addition, they have posted videos on our Division B Facebook page which will continue to provide assistance when needed. Division B has a great "mix" of experienced Area Directors and first-timers which provides both valuable experience and the opportunity for new leaders to grow and learn. I've been impressed with our team and how well they have come together in this new toastmaster year.

The challenges for Division B are having full enrollment in Pathways, having more members delivering Pathways speeches and strengthening the club leadership, especially at the President and Vice President of Education positions. With our strong team of ADs, we will work on our Club Success Plan by utilizing the "Moments of Truth" document. Another area we will continue to work on is training club members on how to craft a speech. We will continue to support Club Presidents with best practices on how to run successful meetings with meeting roles filled ahead of time, more members giving speeches, and training on how to invite guests to a meeting. Area Directors will provide guidance on how to fully implement Pathways to ensure the proper credit and recognition is given to club members for their progress. This is highlighted by two of our ADs who have created a fantastic Division newsletter. Through continued hard work, effective communication and strong leadership by the ADs, Division B will continue to grow and improve.

Area 5 Director - Patricia Saucier, CC, CL, MS5

Area 5 consists of five clubs; one club will be celebrating their first anniversary in October. Two of the clubs, one of which is corporate, are struggling with membership. The corporate club only has eight members, and the other club has nine. One of the other clubs has 20 members, and one has 17. Two of the clubs do well to achieve their education goals. One of the clubs has already achieved two goals. The corporate club that only has 8 members now has a coach. The corporate club is changing some of the terminology to fit the corporate club.

Two of the clubs are in Belfast; one club is in Augusta; one club is in Ellsworth; and one club is in Bangor. I expect two clubs to make Distinguished for the 2021/2022 year. The two clubs that are struggling with membership can improve with assigned coaches. One of the clubs was only missing four points from achieving Distinguished status. I am hoping to get that club even closer if not Distinguished by end of the year. I am excited about how changes to corporate clubs will improve their membership.

Area 6 Director - Bill Bruns, DTM

Area 6 consists of four clubs - one corporate club and three community clubs. All four clubs are struggling with membership, but they are in striking distance of hitting their required number to qualify for Distinguished Club status if their educational goals are met. There is one club that is below the minimum of eight members, but it has a few potential applications. This club is interested in working with a club coach again. At least two clubs should get Distinguished status, but all four have the potential if they hit their membership goals. Area 6 has an abundance of Toastmasters talent and looks like they will take 2022 by storm.

Area 14 Director - Dawna-Jean (DJ) Turchon, DTM

Area 14 consists of four clubs; one is a corporate club, one is an advanced club (the only advanced club in Division B), and the other two are community clubs. Three clubs are in the Augusta, Maine area, and the fourth club is in Brunswick, Maine. One club has only nine members; however, their new President is excited to see club growth this year. The corporate club also has a new President, and they are excited to lead the club in a new direction to spur membership participation. Area 14 has 3 “area soirées” scheduled for the months of September, January, and May, and it will be hosted by one of the clubs. The corporate club is unable to have external members visit; however, they can attend other clubs. One club has coaches lined up, and the other three are not in need of coaches. All four clubs are excited for the coming year.

Area 24 Director - Andrew Chadbourne, ACS, CL, MS3

This Area faces challenges. For instance, all clubs have ignored social media for a year or longer. It has taken three or more emails to Presidents and VPEs to get dates to schedule our Area Council meetings. In addition, Portland Harborside faces an uncertain future. Continued low attendance and membership since before the pandemic due in part to the 3:45-4:45pm meeting time and non-adherence to the Toastmasters format negatively impact the brand.

On the other hand, TD Legendary Toastmasters meets online jointly with TD AF Toastmasters out of Detroit so that roles are filled, and meetings are done according to the Toastmaster format. Secondly, ME Fab Toastmasters reduced their frequency from weekly to bi-weekly to improve meeting quality and prevent burn out. This seems to have helped. Lastly, although Running Hill is the only club that has submitted a Club Success Plan and its attendance has been thin, its leadership seems strong.

All clubs will receive their first official Area Director visit in September.

Division C Director - Jim Kokocki, DTM, PIP

Division C is comprised of 13 clubs in three Areas. Eleven of our 13 clubs had at least four club officers trained at the June TLI. NoonTalkers, a corporate club at the Canada Revenue Agency, and McCain Toastmaster Club have not been meeting during the pandemic. Plans for NoonTalkers are developing, and plans for restarting McCains Toastmasters are in its very early stages. McCain Toastmasters was chartered in 2009, and it is at risk of losing its charter.

Three of the 13 clubs have added new members, and three club visits have been completed at this time. Six of the 13 clubs have seen members earn Pathways awards.

Area 4 Director - Kathi Zwicker, PM5, DL1

As Area 4 Director, I have had two informal visits to Saint John clubs Rising Tide Toastmasters Club and Harbourside Club. I shared in Rising Tide's celebration of member Tendai Muranganwa achieving his Distinguished Toastmasters Award. At Harbourside, I was present when special speaker Division C Director, Jim Kokocki, spoke about his new book Winter. Road. Hockey. 18 Hockey Towns In 49 Days. On August 11, I made a formal visit to Harbourside Club. I also scheduled formal visits to Rising Tide on August 31 and to Saint John Toastmasters on September 13.

I recently had a Zoom call with NoonTalkers' Treasurer, Louise Bouchard, ACG, ALB. This Canada Revenue Agency corporate club has been challenged due to COVID, and its attendance has been sporadic due to high call volumes. Although they lost half of their membership, they have recruited new members to replace those they have lost.

Area 13 Director - Subbi Mathur, DTM, PRA

There are four clubs in my area: Fredericton Toastmasters Club (# 00002204), Civil Speakers Toastmasters Club (# 00006423), Rise and Shine Toastmasters (# 0334944) and River Valley Toastmasters Club (# 04373706).

I began my duties as Area Director by meeting with Fredericton Toastmasters Club officers by Zoom on August 6. All officers are enthusiastic and strong leaders. Their club has 11 members, and it is not holding meetings over the summer. The club prefers in-person meetings, and they do not want to hold hybrid meetings. I discussed the advantages of bringing online members into the club. I hope that, with proper training on holding hybrid meetings, the club will be more conducive to that option.

I have planned the following Area Director visits: River Valley Toastmasters on September 7; Civil Speakers Toastmasters on September 16; and Rise and Shine Advanced Toastmasters on September 25.

I held my first Area Council meeting on August 13, and all four clubs were represented. My next Area Council meeting is on September 16.

Area 19 Director - Manju Basnet, MS4, PM4

There are four clubs in Area 19, three of which are reasonably strong and one that continues to struggle with membership. All the clubs had a minimum of four officers trained. Two of the clubs have members who have completed a Level in Pathways. I have completed two club visits so far. Once I am settled in my new home of London, Ontario, I will continue to conduct visits. I am looking forward to working with the clubs and members so all can achieve success.

Division D Director - Suzanne Weiss, ACB, CL, LD1

We are looking forward to a successful year. We will continue to have online meetings, training and contests. This can be challenging for some. Most have adapted well to the virtual environment. We have benefited from the many training sessions from the District on how to hold a successful meeting and contest using Zoom. We are having discussions about what this year may bring and the challenges clubs may face when going back to in person or hybrid meetings. At this time, meetings are still via Zoom until we are advised differently by Toastmasters International.

The focus for the 2021-2022 year is to have members engaged and to grow membership in all the clubs of Division D. To do so, Division Council and Area Council meetings have been scheduled for the year. This will provide Area Directors and club executives the opportunity to meet and discuss challenges and have ongoing support on a monthly basis. Through member engagement and active participation in Pathways, the goal is to become a Distinguished Division. This will be achieved by having club executives and club members attend the Fall Workshop, TLI's and other District events. Increased involvement will engage Division D Toastmasters and exponentially increase engagement, club growth and achievements. Area Directors are currently working towards completing their unofficial club visits. I also have a goal to visit all of my clubs over the next two months. These visits will be used to find club strengths and areas that the club needs assistance.

Area 1 Director - Alan Idler, DTM

Area 1 renews our expectations for 2021-22. Much remains unknown at this date. Will clubs return to in-person meetings? Will they provide a hybrid environment? Shall clubs stay online only? Each club must decide how to move beyond COVID-19 to continue providing for the educational needs of their members.

Will the District Conference be at a virtual hotel again this year? If contests at the District are virtual, then those rules percolate down to our Area contests as well.

I was Area 1 Director two years ago. I will be renewing a relationship with Cape Breton Toastmasters, Schooner Toastmasters and Dal Toastmasters. I am a member of Toast of the Coast. George Burton will be a new experience for me – although I have met many of their members through past District events.

We'll need flexibility during a year in flux. Our Area Council meetings will be essential to the collaboration we need.

Area 9 Director – Diane Tremblay, ACS, ALB, TC3

Area 9 consists of five clubs: Sears- Halifax Club (# 1555), Spirit-Ed Toastmasters Club (# 5375), Dartmouth TIC Talkers Toastmasters Club (# 9307), Successfully Speaking Women (# 1327791), and Wolfville Toastmasters (# 2419498). One club has over the 20-member base, while the other clubs are at an 8 to 10-member base. Wolfville Toastmasters met through the summer months; Spirit-Ed and TIC Talkers had one meeting each in July and one each in August; the remaining two clubs will start meeting in September after a summer break. One club has club coaches to help. While three other clubs qualify for club coaches, none has been assigned according to the TI report. Low membership is an issue for four of the clubs in area 9. Currently, all clubs are meeting online via Zoom. Unofficial visits have started, while official visits will be scheduled starting in September.

Area 11 Director - Andrea Jeffs, IP4, DL1

Area 11 consists of five clubs; one recently chartered in March 2021 as an online advanced club, while the other four clubs are community or university clubs. Area 11 has clubs with a varying range of members, from 11 members all the way to 25. One of our clubs even conducts joint meetings with a club from another area. Area 11 clubs are spread throughout the Province of Nova Scotia. We have two on the Southwestern Shore, one in the Halifax Regional Municipality, one in East Hants, and one that meets virtually and, therefore, does not necessarily have a “home base”. For the upcoming year, I am hopeful that at least two of our clubs will become Distinguished. After some initial visits to the clubs in the area, it is encouraging to see how supportive and professional the clubs in Area 11 are to guests and newer members of the clubs. I look forward to continuing to support the clubs in Area 11 for their goals in the upcoming year.

Area 18 Director - Michael Lawlor, ACB, ALB, MS5, TC4

This is my second year as Area Director for Area 18. The Area is made up of five clubs. One is a corporate club. Four clubs ended the previous Toastmasters year with good membership numbers, and they must now strive to achieve their new goal. A fifth club has 8 members, and it needs a club coach to boost membership. Three of the clubs are in the Halifax metro area. One corporate club is an online club with membership in Halifax, Ontario, and Quebec. One club with serious membership issues is in a community south of Halifax.

2021-22 looks like a productive year. Last year, two clubs achieved President’s Distinguished, and one achieved Select Distinguished. There is a possibility for these clubs to repeat as Distinguished this year.

Area 21 Director - Marion Taylor, DTM

I am planning on starting my visits next week. One of my clubs isn't meeting until September and one of my clubs is meeting on a regular basis with another club. I am interested in learning how this is working. Of the four clubs, two of them are doing well. Two of the clubs were unpaid at the start of the year. One of those clubs is struggling and may not survive. The good news, however, is that the other club has achieved paid status. Meetings will be online since I am at a distance from all the clubs. Therefore, I plan to use the Area 21 banner as my background.

I really appreciate the notices from Sackville club and plan to visit soon for a non-area visit. There are many challenges to making Area 21 successful, but I am sure with the efforts of all the clubs we will achieve success.

Division E Director - Madhu Kanji, DTM

Division E currently has 12 Clubs. Our team of three ADs and I are moving forward with a focus on communication, commitment, and consolidation. The goals that we have set for the Division include:

1. To work towards increasing our membership base both by attracting new members and by retaining existing members.
2. To monitor the progress of clubs as they transition to a form of hybrid presence.
3. To encourage all clubs to achieve their Distinguished Club Program goals.

We have committed to working as a team to consolidate and build on our Division. We will strive to ensure that every member of our Division is able to complete at least one level of the Pathways Education program. Meetings have been scheduled to achieve an optimum level of communication.

Area 2 Director - Antoine Legresley, IP2

Area 2 consists of four clubs; two clubs are in the Moncton area, one club is in Miramichi, and the fourth club is in Caraquet. The club in Caraquet is French, and the three others are English, including bilingual members in each club. With the changes due to COVID-19, clubs in Area 2 are currently struggling in attracting and retaining members. However, even with fewer members, clubs are still holding fun and productive meetings as the current members are engaged in the Toastmasters program. All clubs met online for most of the year and in spring, the Hub City Toastmasters Club and The Very Best Toastmasters clubs started holding hybrid meetings. Arcadie du Grand Caraquet will start hybrid meetings soon. Hybrid meetings should help to have more members in attendance. I hope to be able to work with clubs to find ways to increase their membership during the next year.

Area 3 Director - Lorelei Grecian, CC, CL, IP2

Area 3 consists of four clubs; one is an advanced club and three clubs are community clubs, all serving a different type of member. Two community clubs have low membership; one is below the eight-member minimum, has coaching support, and is gearing up for a full calendar year despite the low number; another club is in the process of obtaining a coach to bolster their support. Three of the clubs are in the Greater Moncton area; all are currently meeting online with some membership outside of their local areas. Area 3 leadership is eager and diligent to navigate the dynamics that unfold over the next few months. At least two clubs are aiming for Distinguished status although all clubs will be supported in making that possible. Our focus is on educational achievement and sustainable membership growth. I am encouraged by the enthusiasm of our Area 3 members.

Area 17 Director - Jennifer Bryson, LD5, DL5

Area 17 consists of four clubs located in Prince Edward Island; one is a corporate club, and the other three clubs are community clubs. Two of the clubs are in the Charlottetown area, and the other two clubs are in the Summerside area. Despite some challenges in Area 17 due to the COVID-19 pandemic over the last 18+ months, I anticipate 2021/2022 will be a very productive year as clubs get back to a new normal and incorporate a hybrid meeting option. One club has already exceeded their membership requirement, while the other three clubs are starting at a base of between eight to 12 members and require a net of five new members (13 to 17 members by year end).

One club is dealing with some membership struggles, yet it is having some guests show up occasionally. Two clubs are at the base 8-member minimum, and I will be suggesting they consider accepting a club coach. Last year, despite some challenges, the three community clubs achieved Distinguished status, and I anticipate that they will work towards and achieve Distinguished status again this year.

Division G Director - Tom Goodwin, DTM, PDD

Division G is led by a motivated and energetic team of Area Directors this year. We are working with all clubs to increase their membership, to help members achieve their educational goals, and to transition to in-person or hybrid meetings. So far this year (through August 29th) for the 16 active clubs, we have seven new members, 14 educational awards for the year and 10 clubs had a minimum of four officers attend the summer TLI. Currently, we are working on helping clubs develop their club success plans, renew members for October, and prepare for the first round Area Director visits. We look forward to a year where all Division G members can achieve their personal Toastmasters goals in vibrant and supportive clubs.

Area 7 Director - Roxanne Benzel, MS1

Division G, Area 7 is made up of four clubs: one closed corporate club chartered in 2016 and three long-established community clubs that chartered from 1962 through to the 1990s. Membership ranges from two community clubs with eight members and one with 16 members; there are 31 members in the corporate club. Area 7 Council meetings have commenced in August with a published agenda and defined topics to cover in a brief 30-minute meeting. The Area 7 Leadership Council will define the year's goals, establishing one clear priority within each club for the next 11 months. I anticipate an excellent year of learning, sharing, and growth.

Area 8 Director - Susanne Melling, DTM

Five of the six clubs in northern and central Vermont are getting ready to go hybrid.

- Dynamic Speakers is a closed corporate club located at General Dynamics in Williston, Vermont. They are now using the hybrid platform with excellent results. Not only are they increasing their membership, but they are increasing it through remote locations.
- Savvy Speakers is in Barre, Vermont, and is ready to go live with hybrid meetings starting in September. They have been working on perfecting the format and are excited to host their first hybrid meeting.
- Green Mountain Toastmasters is in Stowe, Vermont, and will be the next club to embrace the hybrid format. Our meeting location has the space and technology to host hybrid meetings. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are working on a date to begin live/in-person meetings.
- The Toastmasters of Greater Burlington and Champ Masters clubs, both in Burlington, Vermont, are currently homeless. We are working on obtaining potential locations.

Thank you to all members of Area 8 for your perseverance and dedication in getting hybrid off the ground. The results will show in our increased membership by embracing in-person/online meetings to enable future leaders to thrive in this ever-changing environment.

Area 15 Director - Sarah Wright, PM5, SR1

Area 15 consists of four community clubs based in New Hampshire and Vermont. The clubs have been very active in organizing community events online and in-person. BrattleMasters just had their annual club picnic at Kiwanis Shelter in Brattleboro's Living Memorial Park. Keene Toastmasters Club just had a public event at Railroad Square; however, it was rained out and moved to Zoom. Toast of the Valley Club has an open house on September 7th in Colburn Park (Lebanon, New Hampshire).

Challenges the area continues to face are recruitment and retention of members, and the pandemic certainly did not help. However, these clubs are putting forth energy and creativity to develop hybrid club meeting experiences and getting people together in outdoor venues. Goals 7 & 8, new member recruitment, seem to be the first hurdles these clubs must overcome; all clubs are already on their way to achieve Goals 9 and 10 for their DCP.

Area 25 Director - Brian Richards, DTM

There are three active clubs in Area 25; two are corporate clubs and one is a public/open club. The clubs are in Merrimack and Windham, New Hampshire. COVID-19 has taken a toll on at least one active club, but all three clubs have been impacted by moving to remote/online meetings. Area 25 will continue to be challenged by the Delta variant, and at least one club is exploring hybrid meetings in an attempt to keep all members participating. It is possible that clubs that just open up to in-person meetings may lose members because of personal health conditions. I conducted one club visit that had lower-than-average attendance due to many vacations. Future club visits will be conducted in late September or October, after peak vacation times. As things stand currently, the Area will conduct one speech contest early next year. Historically, the two corporate clubs have not participated in speech contests; hopefully, this will change this year.

NOTES
